

In the Claims

The following is an amendment to and a complete listing of the claims which replaces all prior listings of claims in this application.

1. (currently amended) A heald frame for a weaving machine, [[said]] the frame comprising two posts, ~~(4, 4')~~ and two cross-members ~~(6, 6', 106, 106')~~ and at least one damping means, each cross-member being provided with a catching member ~~(8, 8', 108, 108')~~ suitable for receiving engaging an adjacent a corresponding end of at least one heald ~~(10, 110)~~ of [[said]] the frame, the at least one damping means being mounted to at least one of the cross members or at least one of the catching members, said at least one heald having first and second ends, each of said first and second ends having a compression zone and a traction zone, while there are also provided damping means ~~(12, 12', 112, 112')~~ which are integral with at least one corresponding catching member ~~(8, 8')~~ or cross-member ~~(106, 106')~~ and against which at least one end of the heald is capable of coming to bear, wherein, at least such that when said frame is in [[the]] a stationary state and when the at least one heald is [[in a]] substantially rectilinear configuration, when [[a]] the compression zone of the

first end $[(E)]$ of the ~~or of each at least one~~ heald $(10; 110)$ is bearing either on a first catching member $(8; 108)$ in the a region of its traction zone $(S_1; S_{101})$ or on first engages the at least one damping means $(12; 112)$ in the region of its compression zone $(C_1; C_{101})$, the $[[other]]$ traction zone of the second end $[(E')]$ of the ~~or of each at least one~~ heald $(10; 110)$ bears substantially engages either on other damping means $(12'; 112')$ in the region of its compression zone $(C'_1; C'_{101})$ or on another a first adjacent catching member $(8'; 108')$ in the region of its a traction zone $(S'_1; S'_{101})$.

2.(currently amended) The heald frame as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one damping means (12) ~~are~~ is received in a receiver $[(10_4)]$ of the first end of the at least one heald $[(10)]$, $[[which]]$ and the receiver (10_4) ~~is intended~~ is adapted to receive an end portion of a second adjacent $[[the]]$ catching member $[(8)]$.

3.(currently amended) The heald frame as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one damping means is positioned (112) ~~are~~ ~~situated~~ opposite $[[a]]$ the first $[[free]]$ end $[(E)]$ of the heald (110) , relative to a filiform body (110_2) of the heald.

4. (currently amended) The heald frame as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least the first end of the ~~or each~~ at least one heald ~~(10) has, at least one end,~~ has two principal limbs ~~(10₃, 10₁)~~ defining a receiver ~~(10₄, 10₁)~~ which opens in ~~[[the]]~~ a direction towards a corresponding cross-member ~~(6, 6')~~ by way of a neck ~~(10₆, 10₆)~~, while the ~~corresponding~~ second adjacent catching member ~~(8, 8')~~ ~~comprises~~ includes a catching region ~~(8₄, 8₁)~~ which extends ~~during operation~~ into ~~[[said]]~~ the receiver, as well as an intermediate region ~~(8₃, 8₃)~~ that is received in ~~[[said]]~~ the neck ~~during operation~~.

5. (currently amended) The heald frame as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least the first end of the ~~at least one~~ ~~or each~~ heald ~~(110) has, at at least one end,~~ includes a principal limb ~~[[(110₃)]]~~ defining, with a tooth ~~(110₃₁)~~ and ~~[[/or]]~~ a return portion ~~(110₃₂)~~ of the at least one heald, at least one receiving channel ~~(110₄₁, 110₄₂)~~, while the ~~corresponding~~ second adjacent catching member ~~(108)~~ has a catching region ~~(108₄)~~ ~~accommodated~~ extending at least ~~partly in the~~ ~~or each~~ partially into the at least one receiving channel.

6. (currently amended) The heald frame as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ at least one of the first and second adjacent

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catching member ~~(8, 8')~~ members is removably fixed to ~~[[the]]~~ a
corresponding cross-member ~~(6, 6')~~, ~~especially~~ by cooperative
shaping of two limbs ~~(8₂₁, 8₂₂)~~ of ~~[[said]]~~ the at least one of
the first and second adjacent catching member and facing walls
~~(6₂, 6'₂)~~ of ~~[[the]]~~ an adjacent cross-member ~~(6, 6')~~.

7.(currently amended) The heald frame as claimed in claim 1,
wherein at least one of the first and second adjacent catching
member ~~(108, 108')~~ members is permanently fixed to ~~[[the]]~~ an
adjacent cross-member ~~(106, 106')~~, ~~especially by adhesive bonding~~
~~or riveting~~.

8.(currently amended) The heald frame as claimed in claim 1,
wherein ~~the or each~~ at least one of the first and second adjacent
catching member is formed of at least one folded metal sheet ~~(8,~~
~~8')~~.

9.(currently amended) The heald frame as claimed in claim 1,
wherein the at least one damping means ~~comprise~~ includes a
damping member ~~(12, 12', 112, 112')~~, the profile of which is
constant along the second catching member or the cross-member
adjacent the second catching member.

10.(canceled)

11.(new) The heald frame as claimed in claim 1, including first and second damping means such that when the compression zone of the second end of the at least one heald engages the second damping means, the traction zone of the first end of the at least one heald engages the traction zone a second adjacent catching member.

12.(new) The heald frame as claimed in claim 11, wherein the first and second damping means are mounted to separate ones of the adjacent catching members.

13.(new) The heald frame as claimed in claim 11 wherein another damping means are mounted to the cross-members so as to be opposing the first and second ends of the at least one heald.

14.(new) A weaving machine, the weaving machine comprising at least one heald frame, the heald frame comprising two posts, two cross-members and at least one damping means, each cross-member being provided with a catching member for engaging an adjacent end of at least one heald of the frame, said at least one heald having first and second ends, each of said first and second ends

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having a compression zone and a traction zone such that when said frame is in a stationary state and when the at least one heald is substantially rectilinear, when the compression zone of the first end of the at least one heald engages the at least one damping means, the traction zone of the second end of the at least one heald engages a first adjacent catching member.

15.(new) The weaving machine of claim 14 including first and second damping means such that when the compression zone of the second end of the at least one heald engages the second damping means, the traction zone of the first end of the at least one heald engages the traction zone of a second adjacent catching member.

16.(new) The weaving machine of claim 15 wherein the first and second damping means are mounted to separate ones of the adjacent catching members.

17.(new) The weaving machine of claim 25 wherein the first and second damping means are mounted to the cross-members so as to be opposing the first and second ends of the at least one heald.